

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the Application. Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11 and 12 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) A feeding apparatus for discharging cellulosic material from a steam separator, the feeding apparatus comprising a sealed housing having an inlet through which the cellulosic material enters the housing, a screw disposed within said housing which feeds the cellulosic material from the inlet between a peripheral portion of a screw shaft and [[a]] an inner surface of said screw housing for forming a pressure tight material plug, said screw shaft including a flanged portion, which together with a throttle means provided around said flanged portion form[[s]] an adjustable outlet opening in an outlet end of said housing through which the material plug leaves said screw, ~~while forming~~ and means for adjusting said throttle means relative to said flanged portion so as to adjust a size of the outlet opening to thereby form the cellulosic material into a pressure tight material plug in the outlet opening to thereby

prevent loss of steam pressure from the steam separator.

Claim 2 (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said means for adjusting said throttle means includes a plug pipe which is displacably journaled to said housing so that said plug pipe may be linearly adjusted relative to said flanged portion of said screw to control a size of the outlet opening.

Claim 3 (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said plug pipe is displaceably journaled by a spline connection between said plug pipe and said housing.

Claim 4 (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said screw shaft is journaled in a bearing provided outside of said housing.

Claim 5 (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said bearing is provided at the outlet end of [[the]] said housing.

Claim 6 (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said bearing is provided at a distance from said housing and thereby defines a discharge space for the material passing through the outlet opening.

Claim 7 (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 5 including wings provided on said screw shaft outside of and adjacent to the outlet opening for breaking up ~~[[the]]~~ discharged cellulosic material.

Claim 8 (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein displacement of said plug pipe is carried out by means of operating rods mounted in said bearing.

Claim 9 (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said screw shaft is mounted in a bearing provided beyond said outlet end of said housing.

Claim 10 (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim

9 wherein said bearing is provided at a distance from said housing and thereby defines a discharge space for the discharged cellulosic material.

Claim 11 (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 2 including wings provided on said screw shaft outside of and adjacent to the outlet opening for breaking up ~~[[the]]~~ discharged cellulosic material.

Claim 12 (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 including wings provided on said screw shaft outside of and adjacent to the outlet opening for breaking up ~~[[the]]~~ discharged cellulosic material.